

WHEREFORE WE CLAIM:

1. A device comprising:

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5 means for removing contaminants from a liquid, said means for removing adapted to be releasably supported upon a wall member of a compartment having beverage ingredients, wherein said removing means is separated from said ingredients.

10 2. The device of claim 1, wherein said means for removing comprises a wall defining a periphery of said means for removing.

3. The device of claim 2, wherein said wall is adapted to hold said liquid within said means for removing.

15 4. The device of claim 1, wherein said means for removing comprises a plurality of outwardly extending protrusions adapted to be releasably supported upon said wall member.

20 5. The device of claim 4, wherein said protrusions are flexibly connected to said means for removing.

6. The device of claim 1, wherein said means for removing comprises a handle.

7. The device of claim 6, wherein said handle is releasably attached to said means for removing.

8. The device of claim 1, wherein said means for removing comprises a
5 filtration medium.

9. The device of claim 8, wherein said filtration medium is at least one material selected from the group consisting of: metallic mesh screen, polymeric non-woven material, glass fiber, microporous membrane, paper, iodinated resin,
10 activated carbon, activated alumina, alumina-silicates, ion-exchange resins, manganese oxides, iron oxides, zeolite, and combinations thereof.

10. The device of claim 8, wherein said means for removing further comprises a supporting arm adapted to support said filtration medium.

11. The device of claim 10, wherein said supporting arm is further adapted
15 to be used as a handle for said means for removing.

12. The device of claim 1, wherein said means for removing comprises a
20 filtration medium and a supporting structure.

13. The device of claim 12, wherein said filtration medium is heat sealed to said supporting structure.

14. The device of claim 12, wherein said supporting structure is insert molded around said filtration medium.

5 15. A method comprising:
supporting a means for removing contaminants from a liquid in contact with a wall member of a compartment having beverage ingredients, wherein said means for removing is separated from said ingredients; and
passing said liquid through said removing means before said liquid contacts said ingredients.

10 16. A system comprising
means for removing contaminants from a liquid; and
a compartment having beverage ingredients,
wherein said means for removing is adapted to be releasably supported about
15 the interior of said compartment, and wherein said removing means is separated from said ingredients.

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